
Young Generation's Awareness and Perception on Solid Waste Management: A Case of School Children in Matara District

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Generation of enormous amount of solid waste and improper waste management has become a major national issue in Sri Lanka. It is obvious that an important element of a waste management program is public awareness and participation. Therefore, a quick attention is needed to aware of proper waste management, especially among the young generation in Sri Lanka. Research investigations have not yet explored adequately, in young generation's awareness and perception on waste management. Therefore, this study explores young generation's awareness and perception on solid waste management by using a pre-tested questionnaire survey. A sample survey of 1000 respondents from five randomly selected schools in Matara district, Sri Lanka was conducted in September 2019. The data were analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. It revealed that majority (96%) of young generation were aware on solid waste management. Moreover, most of them (79.7%) were engaged in solid waste segregation, however, very few (1%) were aware on electronic waste segregation. The majority (96.3%) had positive perception on solid waste management. Interestingly, they are willing to use the recommended solid waste management practices such as segregation of solid waste, 3R concept, treat and dispose. Hence, the present study sparks a green light of the future of proper solid waste management. However, more awareness programs on disposal of electronic waste should be conducted among school children.

Keywords: Awareness, Perception, Solid waste management